

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12
AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 COME-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSF-01 OES-07
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 EUR-12 OIC-02 /174 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8437

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 05693

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS CONFERENCE--APRIL 12 PLENARY SESSION

REF: GENEVA 5481

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE PLENARY SESSION MET ON APRIL 12 TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION PREPARED BY THE GENERAL COMMITTEE. THE PROPOSALS, WITH AMENDMENTS, WERE ACCEPTED AFTER LENGTHY DEBATE. LL/GDS AND COASTAL STATE DIFFERENCES AND DISAGREEMENT OVER THE LIST OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES WERE THE PRIMARY REASONS FOR THE LONG SESSIONS. A COUNTER-ATTACK BY CHAIRMAN ENGO ON HIS CRITICS AND A PERUVIAN CHALLENGE TO THE PRESIDENCY COMPLETED THE DAY'S EFFORTS. END SUMMARY.

1. EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON PROCEDURES FOCUSED ON DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE LL/GDS AND THE COASTAL STATES AND ON THE LIST OF OUTSTANDING
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ISSUES. THE LL/GDS-COASTAL STATE QUARREL CONTINUED OVER WHAT BOTH SIDES CLAIMED WERE PREJUDICIAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PROPOSED NEGOTIATING GROUPS. THE COASTAL STATES REPS QUESTIONED THE VALIDITY OF THE TERM "GEOGRAPHICALLY DIS-ADVANTAGED STATES" WHILE THE LL/GDS SAID THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE IS NOT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. AN ANALOGOUS GAP EXISTED OVER CONTINENTAL SHELF AND

REVENUE SHARING TALKS. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON NOTED THE US WAS A BENIGN NEUTRAL IN THE LL/GDS--COASTAL STATES QUESTION BUT HE STRESSED THE STRONG INTEREST OF THE US DELEGATION IN A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE.

2. THE MOST INTERESTING INTERVENTIONS ON UNRESOLVED ISSUES WERE THE REQUESTS BY SPAIN, OMAN AND YEMEN TO INCLUDE STRAITS AS A TOPIC WHICH HAD NOT YET RECEIVED SUFFICIENT CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE. AMERASINGHE EFFECTIVELY FINESSED THE ISSUE BY POSTPONING IT UNTIL THE OTHER (HARD CORE) MATTERS WERE OUT OF THE WAY.

3. FRANCE, CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES TOOK NOTICE OF THE INCLUSION OF A RECOMMENDATION TO THE THIRD COMMITTEE TO TAKE UP THE ISSUES OF MARINE POLLUTION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, A MOVE PROPOSED BY THE U.S.

4. AMERASINGHE EXPEDITIOUSLY GAVELLED THROUGH FINAL ACCEPTANCE (WITH SOME AMENDMENTS) OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROCEDURES BY 9:30 P.M. (FULL TEXT SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL) BEFORE GIVING THE FLOOR TO PAUL ENGO, (COMMITTEE I CHAIRMAN). CATCHING MOST OF THE SLEEPY DELEGATES UNPREPARED, ENGO BLASTED AWAY AT HIS CRITICS INCLUDING THE HANDFUL OF IMPORTANT DELEGATIONS WHO "HAVE RESORTED TO PERSONAL ATTACKS ON THE HOLDERS OF OFFICE AT THIS CONFERENCE." "INNUENDOS, PERHAPS QUITE UNINTENDED, HAVE BEEN PICKED UP CONFIDENTIAL

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BY A SMALL SENSATION-SEEKING SECTION OF THE PRESS AND BLOWN UP OUT OF ALL PROPORTION." HE DEFENDED HIMSELF AGAINST THE INCLUSION IN THE ICNT (AND THE RSNT) OF JAMAICA AS THE PROPOSED SITE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY BY CLAIMING THIS WAS DONE ON THE BASIS OF A G-77 DECISION TO SUPPORT JAMAICA'S CANDIDACY. CONCERNING HIS REJECTION OF THE EVENSEN TEXTS AT THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE, ENGO SAID EVENSEN WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING AGREEMENT ON ANY TEXT AND AT NO TIME INDICATED TO ENGO THAT ANY AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED. IN SPITE OF THIS, EVENSEN "BOLDLY SET UP TEXTUAL PERSONAL RECOMMENDATIONS AT MY REQUEST" BUT AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS, "THE MATERIAL IDEAS PREPARED BY EVENSEN WERE REJECTED BY MOST." EJECTED BY

ENGO ALSO CLAIMED THAT "THE ISSUE OF TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY WAS DISCUSSED FULLY AND AGREED UPON WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MOST INTERESTED DELEGATION BEFORE THEY WERE ADOPTED BY ME."

IN CLOSING HIS SOMEWHAT EMOTIONAL STATEMENT, ENGO ASKED FOR A GREATER ROLE FOR HIMSELF IN THE SEABED NEGOTIATIONS.

ENGO'S SPEECH WAS SEEN BY SOME AS A REACTION TO MALTA'S
CRITICAL LETTER TO THE CONFERENCE ACCUSING THE FIRST
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OF PARTIALITY TOWARD JAMAICA AS THE
SEABED AUTHORITY SITE. IT WAS ALSO CLEAR THAT ENGO HAD
BEEN HARBORING A DEEP RESENTMENT ABOUT COMPLAINTS OVER
HIS ROLE IN WRITING PART XI OF THE ICNT AND CHOSE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEMPT A JUSTIFICATION OF HIS ROLE.
5. FOLLOWING ENGO, PERU (ARIAS-SCHREIBER) AGAIN CHALLENGED
THE AMERASINGHE PRESIDENCY BY QUESTIONING THE MANNER IN
WHICH THE PRESIDENT WOULD RECEIVE HIS SALARY AND ON WHAT
GROUNDS THIS PAYMENT WAS TO BE MADE. (PERU APPARENTLY HAD
FORWARDED AMERASINGHE OF ITS INTENTION AND THE PRESIDENT
TURNED THE CHAIR OVER TO THE PAKISTAN VICE-PRESIDENT
MOMENTS BEFORE.) IN RESPONSE, ZULETA (SPECIAL REP OF THE
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UN SECRETARY-GENERAL) NOTED THAT AMERASINGHE DID HAVE A
CONSULTANCY RELATIONSHIP TO THE SECRETARIAT AND ANY
CONFERENCE DECISIONS ON THESE MATTERS WOULD BE HONORED
WHEN THE CONFERENCE SO DECIDES TO RESOLVE SUCH QUESTIONS

AS RAISED BY PERU.

6. COMMENT: UNTIL THE ENGO OUTBURST IT APPEARED THE CONFERENCE WAS ON THE WAY TO SETTLE DOWN TO THE SUBSTANTIVE WORK AHEAD. TEDIOUS HOURS OF REPETITIOUS DEBATE HAD NOT SOLVED ANY OF THE REAL PROBLEMS OR DIMINISHED THE OPPOSING VIEWS BUT PERHAPS HAVE HAD A CATHARTIC EFFECT. A NUMBER OF LATINS (ECUADOR, MEXICO, ARGENTINA, URUGUAY AND VENEZUELA -- ALTHOUGH NOT AGUILAR) RESTATED THEIR OFFICIAL OPPOSITION TO THE DECISION ON THE PRESIDENCY BUT ADDED FOR THE FIRST TIME A DESIRE TO COOPERATE TOWARD THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE. THE LATE NIGHT PERUVIAN LAST, BUT PROBABLY NOT FINAL, GASP THUS STOOD OUT FROM THE GENERAL LATIN PATTERN. WHILE IT MAY BE TOO EARLY TO ASSESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, ENGO'S
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ASSERTION OF A MAJOR ROLE IN THE COMMITTEE I. NEGOTIATIONS WILL MAKE THE SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF SEABEDS ISSUES MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. IN ADDITION, THE PERSEVERING PIQUE OF INFLUENTIAL LATINS, SUCH AS AGUILAR COULD, AT THE LEAST, IMPEDE CONFERENCE WORK. CONCEIVABLY THE NOW-RECORDED FRAME-
WORK OF "LEGAL" OBJECTIONS, TO THE PRESIDENCY DECISIONS COULD ALSO BE THE BASIS FOR ANOTHER LATIN CHALLENGE AT A LATER DATE. ALDRICH

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